

SEVEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE

BY THE STEAMERS ETNA AND ASIA.

The English Press on the Message.

FURTHER WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

PARTICULARS OF PRINCE ALBERT'S DEATH.

EARLY MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

The steamer *Etna*, from Liverpool December 18, and Queenstown on the day following, arrived at the port yesterday, and the steamer *Asia*, from Liverpool December 21, and from Queenstown December 22, arrived at Halifax yesterday. By these arrivals we have seven days later Europe's news.

The Bohemian arrived off Londonderry on the evening of the 17th.

The steamers of the Canadian and New-York and Philadelphia lines were stipulating with shippers for the right to call at any intermediate port, discharge cargoes, &c., should it be deemed unsafe from war or otherwise to go to their ports of destination.

GREAT BRITAIN.

In noticing the telegraph is summary of the Asia's news, *The London Times* says:

"The news by the Asia is not encouraging. Looking at the present state of things and the approval of the Navy Department on the San Joaquin, the danger of war appears imminent. The President however, has refrained from the topic, and this goes to show toward neutralizing warlike inferences. Had President Lincoln regarded the trend as a subject of congratulation, he would probably have alluded to it. It resolved to uphold it, he would have sent a lecture to neutral nations; but as he has done none of these things, the impression occurs that he has by a studied silence left himself a room of retreat. The uncertainty of the ultimate issue still remains, although the chances of peace are undoubtedly diminished."

It is stated that Parliament will meet for the dispatch of business on the 1st or the 16th of January, which is some weeks earlier than usual.

Lord Palmerston had been suffering from gout, but latest accounts report him much better.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

From *The London Times*, Dec. 17.
The style of the American President has fallen with the change of the Republic. Instead of the jolly, rollicking periods of former days, each of which seemed to suggest at its close a sense of "hell, columbus," we have now got a disursive and confused essay, ill-arranged and woefully expressed. Nor does the matter rest in the style. It is really wonderful, when we consider the present state of the American Republic, how any one taken in the position of Mr. Lincoln could have taken the trouble to produce so strange a medley, so incomposite a chap-book. There are several subjects on which we earnestly desire information, and no one is it all clear. At all things, we want to know what the American Cabinet thinks of the affairs of the Trent, what advice it received from its legal counsel, and with what feelings it approaches the coming controversy. On this point there is not a word. Then, we should like to learn a little of the financial measures by which the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure is to be preserved in the face of so vast an outlay. We should like to know what means the President proposes to adopt with regard to the slave population of the Southern States, whether, on one-half of his Cabinet, he is for emancipation, or, with the other half of his Cabinet, for a maintenance of the rights of the slaveholder. On all these points our oracle is silent. But, if he tells us very little, that we want to know, he may be incensed by telling us a great many things in which we have no interest. He has a plan for re-adjusting the circuits of the judges for the expeditious of the statute law. He is very anxious on the re-estimation and distribution of the Post-Office and the Patent Office. He is anxious to extend the District of Columbia to Virginia. He has something to say on the Exhibition of 1862. He has, in common with most of his predecessors, a plan for getting rid of free negroes by a system of colonization, and has room for an argument to show, as he wishes, that labor is independent of capital, one how little progress the most obscure doctrines of political economy have made in the higher schools of America will find.

It is not easy to see why Mr. Lincoln should have omitted from his speech any notice of the case of the Trent. If he means to give up the persons illegally seized, he would have thought it no unwise precaution to prepare the public mind for such a decision. If he means to keep them, we cannot understand why he does not grant all the popularity that is to be had, in exchange for present war and future ruin, instead of allowing it to be picked up by sycophants. Members of Congress embarking in a contest whether the transcendent merit of Commodore Wilkes would be best rewarded by thanks or by a gold medal. Possibly the simple solution may be that the President has as yet arrived at no conclusion at all, and that, perplexed by the divisions of his Cabinet, he has been content to let the matter alone till events shall determine for him that which is unable or unwilling to determine it himself. He will not have long to wait. Each successive message to the report of some fresh instance in which the American nation is step by step committing itself to a war policy with England, will gradually find that it goes too far to have any power of retraction. The Government has resolved the Admiralty has risked Commodore Wilkes, and Congress has now given the seal of its approbation to a proceeding so deeply offensive to Great Britain. It is hardly possible to imagine a Government sunk so far below its duties and responsibilities as to allow all this to go on and no foreign either of assent or dissent. The President is bound to lead his nation into the Trent, or to a true decision on a matter so nearly touching the duties and the character of the Executive. The ought to let either the principles involved in the question, and to give it every opportunity of displaying a conduct conformable to the real interests of the country. But he has done nothing of all this, and has abandoned the vessel of the state to drift helplessly before the gale of popular clamor.

The President has given us, I stand, the information we desire, his opinion on the real cause of the present war. The North, he says, are fighting for the integrity of the Union—that is, as Lord Russell said, for empire, to compel the South, by force of arms, to live under a Government which they detest. The South, on the other hand, are fighting against the rights of the people—that is, against the rights of the people of the South to govern them against their consent. This description ought to put an end to the statement, an often repeated, that Slavery is the chief matter in dispute.

Very oft ten, however, is it as force as proportion to the enemy with which it is immediately matched. The Confederate States have as many as 111,000 men, and the army of Mr. Wilkes is as small as a dwarf. If ever there was an opportunity of capturing him, it was within the last few months, when the Federal Government had 250 ships and 300,000 men, and their enemies had but two or three wrecks, privateers, and some cutters and a small navy.

This is creditable to Mr. Wilkes as an oil-skin man, but the result is not exceedingly terrible, especially when he proceeds to tell us how he has been surrounded, by firing all sorts of commercial vessels and gathering together every floating thing that would carry a gun. These figures represent a naval force which would be very little to Prussia, which might claim the fleet of Italy, and which would call forth an effort from Spain, but when France could easily destroy, and England outlast, him exceeding cheap. This is not the Navy of a first-class Power. It is enough for a people who are to be at peace, but it is ridiculous for a people who insist upon being quarreling. A little man who holds his own against a big man who is trying to break him has every bystander's sympathy in his favor, but nothing is more contemptible than a little man who is noisy and offensive, only to reliance upon the impunity which he expects on account of his own weakness and the generality of those whom he insults. To sustain the pretensions of Federal slaves to incur all naval nations, Mr. Wilkes has increased the Navy of 500,000 men, and has disbanded the Royal Navy had an unfortunate influence over the training of his allies, and possibly assisted the progress of the叛逆.

On Wednesday he is said to have expressed a belief that he should not recover. No material change took place on Thursday, and on Friday the Queen took to drive, with no idea of danger. When she returned, the patient's extremities were already cold, and from that time he was in the greatest danger. On Friday evening he was not expected to survive the night, and the Prince was summoned to feed him. It was not till Wednesday (the 16th), when the fever quelled, heart, and the patient was much weakened, that the first bulletin was issued, and even then it was stated that the symptoms were not unfavorable. It is said that the death of the King of Portugal had an unfortunate influence over the training of his allies, and possibly assisted the progress of the叛逆.

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The Times says that the Queen has borne her loss with exemplary resignation and a composure which, under so sudden and so terrible a bereavement, could not have been anticipated. When the first passionate burst of grief was over, Her Majesty called her children around her, and with a calmness which gives proof of great natural energy, addressed them in elegant and affectionate terms. Her Majesty declared to her family that, though she grieved much by the loss of one who had been her companion through life, she knew how much was expected of her, and she accordingly called on her children to give her their assistance in order that she might do her duty to them and to the country.

But one sentiment was apparent throughout England—that of deep sympathy for the Queen and regret for the death of one so universally respected.

The strong enmities were passed upon the dead Prince by the press and the public. Great interest was felt in the situation of the Queen, and bulletins were issued from time to time showing that although her Majesty was overwhelmed with grief, she bore her bereavement with calmness, and had not suffered in health. The Queen and the Royal children were to leave Windsor Castle for Osborne on the 18th.

The London Times says that, from all accounts,

the Prince Alice has shown herself fully equal to the occasion, receiving her dying father's confidence and giving her mother timely comfort and aid. The Prince of Wales, of whom we have seen so much, seem to know so little, has position and power to win. He may be a true King, or a shadow of royalty. The decision is to be made this very hour. The Prince will have to make a solemn choice between a life of triviality—a mere影子—and misery—and a reign of usefulness. Judging by the measure of age, he should now be as competent to

the British Government in regard to the Trent affair, as his son is to the Prince Consort when he assumed that duty.

The funeral of the Prince would take place on

Wednesday, the 23d. In accordance with the custom usually followed of late years, the funeral would not be a State one, nor would the remains be interred in the Chapel of St. George and the Governor of Massachusetts charged with exhibition and which has made the Mayor of Boston and the Governor of

Massachusetts eloquent with admiration and which has made the House of Representatives to

greatly. This act is thus dealt with by Mr. Gil-

son Wells.

Col. J. S. Wilkes, in command of the San Joaquin, while searching in the West Indies for the Sumatra, received information that James M. Mason and John Shultz, drydockers and leading contractors, were with their crews in Europe, having come to Europe with their families, and were en route to Europe. In the Log book of the San Joaquin, dated Nov. 20, 1861, it is written: "Left the San Joaquin on November 20, from this port, bound for home, where we were to be met by the United States." The vessel having been ordered to sail for service at Charlestown, the president of the San Joaquin, Col. J. S. Wilkes, who was then on board, sent a message to the San Joaquin, asking him to return to the port, which he did, and took the vessel to the United States.

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